

Fibre Arts AGM Report

Sunday March 26,2017

By Susan Berlin

The Fibre Arts Knitters Group meets every Thursday morning in the small front room at MERA. Several new members have joined in the last year; generally there are five to 10 people working at MERA every Thursday morning.

Mostly, we knit – but we also encourage and teach beginner knitters; discuss and exchange patterns; describe interesting techniques; and talk about types of yarns and sources for them. As well, those of us who spin occasionally bring our wheels and fibre. And, of course, we talk. Yes, we talk about the fibre world – but also about kids and grandkids, politics, men...in other words, it's a pretty wonderful mutual support group. We have been known to get complaints that we laugh too much.

The Fibre Arts group also organizes afternoon workshops starting at 1 PM (open to all MERA members) based on suggestions provided by the group's members. The workshops are usually offered by one of the members; cost is minimal, often only the price of materials. As well, in the months before Christmas, members spend many afternoons making small items for the MERA Christmas Fair; in 2016, those items raised about \$1,500.00 for MERA.

Promoting and managing the workshops has been a huge task, which for many years was undertaken by Cathie Huffman. Since January of 2016, however, we've been re-formulating and simplifying the management of the workshops: members are asked to propose workshops they'd like to have offered – or which they'd like to offer. (If you have an idea for a program, please contact Nancy Sont at 278-0225.) Each workshop leader will be responsible for organizing her own program and writing a description for it; once the program is agreed upon with Nancy, she will contact the MERA Administrator who will email the information to all Fibre Arts members. So far, the new system seems to be working, with good attendance at all the workshops. Some of the programs from this past year: needle felting; basket-making; knitting for those who know the basics but want to learn new skills.

We invite anyone interested in the fibre arts to drop in on a Thursday morning Fibre Arts Knitting group and/or add your name to the fibrearts email list (contact MERA Administrator Marilyn Barnett at meraschoolhouse@bell.net) so you will receive information on Thursday afternoon fibrearts activities, potluck lunches, etc. You don't even have to bring anything: donated yarn, knitting and crochet needles are freely available, as is a lot of support, teaching and advice. And then there are all those laughs...